

November 16, 2004

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2 pages via fax: 513-627-1587 and U.S. postal mail

Dear Barbara:

After reviewing publicly available records from the University of Kentucky, we have uncovered yet another instance in which Iams failed to enforce its 1999 terminal-research moratorium, resulting in the deaths of cats.

In the “Research Project Proposal” for his Iams-funded experiment entitled, “Lipid Metabolism in Feline Hepatic Lipidosis (FHL): Impact of Taurine and Carnitine,” Dr. Geza Bruckner notes that the cats used in the experiment would be fed “a high caloric diet **low in LPUFAs and deficient in taurine and marginal in choline and methionine** until they gained at least 30% above their lean bodyweights, thus minimizing stores of these nutrients” (emphasis in original). He goes on to note that such a diet “will rapidly precipitate the development of FHL [Feline Hepatic Lipidosis],” a condition for which the “mortality rate in cats even with aggressive nutrition therapy approximates 40% and approaches 90% in untreated cats.”

Dr. Bruckner’s “Internal Approval Form” lists this project as starting on June 1, 1999. This clearly falls *after* the March 1999 date when Iams implemented its policy. How could Iams let this experiment continue knowing that death was likely to occur for cats induced with FHL?

Not only was death likely—according to the University’s animal-disposition records, it occurred on four separate occasions, yet Iams continued to turn a blind eye:

- Cat number 4785 was “[f]ound dead” on August 23, 2000.
- Cat number 4790 was euthanized on August 10, 2000 “because of [a] grossly large spleen.”
- Cat number 4799 died on August 15, 2000, after which a “necropsy revealed diseased kidneys.”
- Cat number 4787 was euthanized on June 20, 2000 “because of indications [of] renal disease (high creatinine).”

Iams had nearly three months—from the time its March 1999 policy went into effect to the time that this experiment started—to insist that Dr. Bruckner either



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change his protocol to comply with Iams' policy or risk losing Iams' funding altogether. Why was this measure not taken?

May we please hear from you immediately? Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [ShalinG@peta.org](mailto:ShalinG@peta.org) or 757-962-8325. Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shalin D. Gala", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Shalin Gala, Research Associate  
Research & Investigations Department

cc: Mary Beth Sweetland